

# Cyclone Gabrielle updates

## Message from the Mayor

We heard last week that the Cyclone Recovery Minister has set a timeline for assessments of properties affected by Cyclone Gabrielle, with those in the lowest-risk areas getting some clarity about their future from May 31.

We welcome this process getting underway, and hearing that those in higher-risk areas will also start to be engaged with in early June.

Also welcome, was the Government's announcement at the weekend of \$475m funding support to rebuild roads and rail links and about \$100 million to repair and raise stopbanks – showing its continued commitment to supporting our community to recover.

The funding for mental health is also critical. Our affected communities are suffering through hardship and the uncertainty around their futures.

Our residents need certainty and are wanting answers, but it's important that this process is conducted thoroughly and provides the right answers.

In the meantime, the Hawke's Bay Regional Recovery Plan is being compiled based on the information provided by the five local authorities through their preliminary locality and resilience plans.

The Regional Recovery Plan is set to be presented to the lead minister for Hawke's Bay Recovery, Hon Kieran McAnulty, by the end of June.

As we move forward we are committed to engaging with our community to understand what the needs are and to ensure they are given the right information.

It was good to join Waka Kotahi to bless the Waikare Gorge Bailey Bridge before its opening on Sunday, May 14. This State Highway is a vital lifeline link for the communities that rely on it and it's a relief that it will be restored before winter particularly for our rural residents in and around Putorino and Tutira.



Kia Kaha  
Sandra Hazlehurst



## Government: Cyclone recovery package and funding to clean slash and debris

The Prime Minister has announced a billion-dollar flood and cyclone recovery package as part of Budget 2023 that it says will cover the basics of rebuilding roads, rail and schools while preparing for future events with a big investment in flood protection measures.

In addition to the \$100 million for local flood protection solutions, \$35.4 million will go towards supporting the safety and wellbeing of farmers and growers, and stock in cyclone damaged areas by scaling up on-farm technical, scientific, and financial advice.

**Read the full announcement here:** [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/cyclone-recovery-package-builds-protection-future](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/cyclone-recovery-package-builds-protection-future)

The Forestry Minister has announced Government is supporting the clean up of slash and debris in Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay and aims to remove up to 70,000 tonnes of woody debris from river and catchment systems. The \$10.15 million from Budget 2023 will go to Gisborne District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council to take short to medium term measures that limit the damage of any further movement of woody debris material.

**Read the full announcement here:** [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/funding-clean-slash-and-debris-tairāwhiti-and-hawke's-bay](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/funding-clean-slash-and-debris-tairāwhiti-and-hawke's-bay)

## Government: Affected area timelines

The Cyclone Recovery Minister has set out the next steps for assessments of areas affected by the severe weather events earlier this year.

Low-risk areas (category 1) in Hawke's Bay will be announced on 31 May, giving people in those areas certainty on which they can base decisions. Engagement with individuals and communities within Category 2 and 3 severely affected areas will begin in early June; outlining the process ahead and paving the way for consultation on specific outcomes for severely affected locations.

**Read the full media release here:** <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/update-timelines-affected-properties-post-cyclone-and-flooding>

## SILT

Pathogens sometimes found in silt following a flood decrease over time as they are exposed to air and sunshine. Results from random testing results of silt in Hawke's Bay are expected in the coming days, and in the meantime, people working with silt can limit the risk of infection with good hygiene practices (wearing gloves and a mask and hand washing) and washing clothes that have come in contact with silt. Out of precaution, do not add fresh silt to vegetable gardens until spring to allow pathogen levels to decrease.

Find out more about handling the silt, silt sampling results, and how to request a silt collection on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council website: [www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle-response/dealing-with-waste](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle-response/dealing-with-waste).

## KEY STATS

Up to 12 May 2023

**383 jobs**  
RECEIVED

APPROXIMATELY  
**230,000m<sup>3</sup>**  
OF SILT COLLECTED

AROUND  
**900 truck**  
movements  
PER DAY THIS WEEK

## ORCHARD WASTE BURNING CAN GET UNDERWAY

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has advised orchardists that in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, it has relaxed its rules on burning wood waste, including in the air sheds.

For a list of items that remain prohibited from burning and smoke nuisance rules, visit: <https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/news/article/1466/orchard-burning-can-get-underway>



## PLACARDED HOMES AND REPAIRS

Homeowners with flood-damaged homes can repair their home 'like for like', using the MBIE guidance document (available in appendix 2 of the Building Recovery Information Pack: [www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Building-Recovery/Building-Recovery-Info-Pack.pdf](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Building-Recovery/Building-Recovery-Info-Pack.pdf)). Homeowners are advised to consider the risk profile of their area and pending Government announcements before deciding to repair their homes.

However building consents for more extensive work on homes/buildings subject to a cyclone-related Red, Yellow or White placard, or on areas of land that suffered significant flooding, are not being issued at this time, with the exception of solid fuel heaters (wood burners).

Consents for retaining wall structures will be considered if homes are at risk of structural failure due to land instability

The building consent process for these properties will be reviewed once more information on the risk profile of the areas has been received from the Cyclone Taskforce.

If you have questions related to this, email: [buildingrecovery@hdc.govt.nz](mailto:buildingrecovery@hdc.govt.nz).

## ROADS & BRIDGES

### Hastings roads & bridges

- **Whanawhana bailey bridge**, estimated to open 15 May.
- **Ellis-Wallace bailey bridge**, estimated to open end of May.
- **Moeangiangi low-level crossing**, estimated to open end of May.
- **Mangatutu low-level crossing**, estimated to open end of May.

*Note: Some of the bridges may be subject to weight and speed limits and Council asks that their use be limited as much as possible to residents and essential services only.*

- **Redclyffe Bridge**, demolition of the broken sections continues with four weeks remaining. Council is working with the adjacent community on viable options for a temporary solution that could coincide with demolition. The earliest potential date for opening is the end of June.
- **Crownthorpe Bridge**, due to be completed at the end of June.
- Solutions for the remaining structures including **Brookfield, Darkeys Spur No1, Puketapu and Kereru Rd Gorge bridges** continue to be investigated.

For the most up-to-date information on road closures and the repair status of Hastings District bridges visit: [www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/services/roads-and-streets/road-works](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/services/roads-and-streets/road-works).

### Waka Kotahi roads & bridges

- **State Highway 2 Wairoa to Napier is now open:** The new Bailey bridge at Waikare Gorge was blessed by Ngāti Pāhauwera and Maungaharuru-Tangitu Trust on Saturday 13 May, before the entire route reopened to the public on Sunday 14 May.

## RATES REMISSION APPLICATIONS

Owners of yellow-stickered properties (the sticker must be on the main residence) can apply for rates remissions by filling in the form at [www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/rates-relief](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/rates-relief). Red stickered properties are automatically receiving rates remission.

## COUNCIL CYCLONE SUPPORT

To access support call Council's 24/7 help number (06 871 5000), advise that your call is for 'cyclone support' and our customer service team will have the appropriate staff member contact you.



## HAWKE'S BAY DISASTER RELIEF TRUST PHASE TWO FUNDING

The second phase of the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust is now open. This funding is for our most impacted residents who have incurred significant personal cost not covered by other funding. Individuals, community groups and marae can apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

To complete an application, head to: <https://hdc.smartygrants.com.au/HBDRF>

## CLAIMS RESOLUTION SERVICE

If you need support with an insurance claim, the New Zealand Claims Resolution Service can help you access the services you need to resolve it. They provide free advice, case management where appropriate and access to legal, engineering and wellbeing support, tailored to individual's needs. Visit [nzcrs.govt.nz](http://nzcrs.govt.nz) for more information.